REMARKS

Claims 1-32 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1-10, 15-27, 31 and 32 are rejected. Claims 11 and 28 are canceled. Claims 1, 9, 12, 19, 26 and 29 are amended. Claims 1-10, 12-27 and 29-32 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I.   35 U.S.C. §102(e)

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 1-10, 15-27 and 31-32 are rejected to under 37 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ogino, et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,038,625 ("Ogino"). Applicant respectfully traverses the foregoing rejection for the following reasons.

According to MPEP §2131, "'[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.' (Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). 'The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.' (Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an ipsissimis verbis test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. (In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990))."

Applicant's claim 1 contains the limitations of "... preparing capability information of each of a plurality of devices with regard to signal formats; designating a device that ultimately receives a signal; collecting the capability information of every one of the plurality of devices; producing a plurality of possible transmission paths between the receiving device and other devices, based on the capability information collected; identifying a device that transmits a signal and a format of the transmitted signal; selecting one of the plurality of possible transmission paths that matches the transmitting device and the transmitted signal format for a transmission path, issuing

commands to the plurality of devices involved in the selected transmission path upon a change of the transmitted signal format; and controlling input/output of the plurality of devices according to the issued commands to establish the transmission path for issuing commands to the plurality of devices involved in the possible selected transmission paths upon a change in signal format and selecting one of an output of a decoder and an analog terminal."

Applicants' claim 9 contains the limitations of "... a means for storing capability information regarding signal formats for each of a plurality of devices; an analog input terminal (302); a memory (306) for storing capability information of other devices coupled to a digital interface (308); a digital input/output terminal (300) coupled to the memory; a decoder (303) coupled to the digital interface (308); and a controller (307) which refers to contents in the information storage means and the memory to produce possible transmission paths based on the capability information stored in the information storage means and the memory (306), wherein the controller (307) comprises a command generator for issuing commands to devices involved in the possible selected transmission paths upon a change in signal format and a selector for selecting one of an output of the decoder (303) and the analog terminal (302)."

Applicant's amended claim 19 contains the limitations of "...preparing capability information of each of a plurality of devices with regard to signal formats; designating a device that ultimately receives a signal; collecting the capability information of every one of the plurality of devices; producing a plurality of possible transmission paths between the receiving device and other devices, based on the capability information collected; identifying a device that transmits a signal and a format of the transmitted signal; selecting one of the plurality of possible transmission paths that matches the transmitting device and the transmitted signal format for a transmission path, issuing commands to the plurality of devices involved in the selected transmission path upon a change in signal format; controlling input/output of the plurality of devices according to the issued commands to automatically establish the transmission path, and by issuing commands to the plurality of devices involved in the possible selected transmission paths upon a change in signal format and selecting one of an output of a decoder and an analog terminal; and displaying the selected transmission path on a monitor (305)."

Applicant's amended claim 26 contains the limitations of "...a means for storing capability information regarding signal formats for each of a plurality of devices; an analog input terminal (302); a memory (306) for storing capability information of other devices coupled to a digital interface (308); a digital input/output terminal (300) coupled to the memory (306); a decoder (303) coupled to the digital interface (308); a monitor (305) coupled to one of an output of the decoder (303) and the analog input terminal (302); and a controller (307) which refers to contents in the information storage means and the memory (306) to produce possible transmission paths based on the capability information stored in the information storage means and the memory, wherein the controller (307) comprises a command generator for issuing commands upon change in signal format to devices involved in the possible selected transmission paths to automatically control connections of devices and a selector for selecting one of an output of the decoder (303) and the analog terminal (302), wherein the selector is coupled to a switch (304), wherein the switch is removably coupled to one of an output of the decoder (303) and the analog terminal (302)."

Ogino discloses a method and system that operates in a IEEE 1394 consumer electronic network that uses assigned identifiers. Ogino also discloses that once a device is added to the home network, capabilities and characteristics are determined. The self-describing data (SDD) structure is used to allow other devices to discover the capabilities of another device. The type of description contained in a SDD is type of device (*e.g.*, TV, VTR). Other possible descriptions within an SDD can be override DCM or a graphical representation of the device.

Ogino, however, fails to teach, disclose or suggest "controlling input/output of the plurality of devices according to the issued commands to establish the transmission path for issuing commands to the plurality of devices involved in the possible selected transmission paths upon a change in signal format and selecting one of an output of a decoder and an analog terminal," "the controller (307) comprises a command generator for issuing commands to devices involved in the possible selected transmission paths upon a change in signal format and a selector for selecting one of an output of the decoder (303) and the analog terminal (302)," "controlling input/output of the plurality of devices according to the issued commands to automatically establish the

transmission path, and by issuing commands to the plurality of devices involved in the possible selected transmission paths upon a change in signal format and selecting one of an output of a decoder and an analog terminal; and displaying the selected transmission path on a monitor (305)," or "the controller (307) comprises a command generator for issuing commands upon change in signal format to devices involved in the possible selected transmission paths to automatically control connections of devices and a selector for selecting one of an output of the decoder (303) and the analog terminal (302), wherein the selector is coupled to a switch (304), wherein the switch is removably coupled to one of an output of the decoder (303) and the analog terminal (302)."

Therefore, since Ogino does not disclose, teach or suggest all of Applicant's amended claims 1, 9, 19 and 26 respective limitations, Applicant respectfully asserts that a *prima facie* rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) has not been adequately set forth relative to Ogino. Thus, Applicant's claims 1, 9, 19 and 26 are not anticipated by Ogino. Additionally, the claims that depend directly or indirectly on claims 1, 9, 19 and 26, namely claims 2-8, 10 and 15-18, 20-25, and 27 and 31-32, respectively, are also not anticipated by Ogino for the above same reason.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection for claims 1-10, 15-27 and 31-32 are respectfully requested.

II.   Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 11-14 and 28-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 9 to include the limitations of claim 11. Applicant has amended claim 26 to include the limitations of claim 28. Applicant has also amended claims 1 and 19 to include the limitations of claim 11.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-10, 12-27 and 29-32 as they now stand are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely 1-10, 12-27 and 29-32, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.
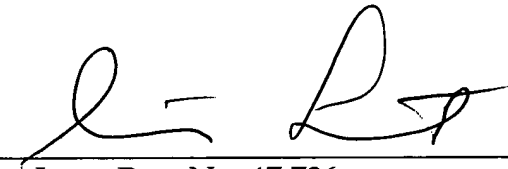
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 8, 2005   By _____

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop A/F, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on February 8, 2005.

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Jean Svoboda